

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 03241 280701Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INT-05 SSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 /043 W
-----082901 290452Z /21

R 280535Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3124
INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
HICOMPTERPACIS SAIPAN
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
AMEMBASSY SUVA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, NR
SUBJ: CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT IN NAURU

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED:

1. THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAURU HAS INFORMED US THAT BERNARD DOWIYOGO RESIGNED AS PRESIDENT OF NAURU ON APRIL 19, 1978. HE WAS REPLACED BY LAGUMOT HARRIS, WHO WILL ALSO BE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, INTERNAL AFFAIRS, WORKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES, AND PUBLIC SERVICE. OTHER MEMBERS OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT ARE: KENAS AROI, MINISTER FOR ISLAND DEVELOPMENT AND INDUSTRY, CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY; LEO KEKE, MINISTER FOR JUSTICE; ROY DEGOREGORE, MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND EDUCATION; AND REUBEN KUN, MINISTER FOR FINANCE AND MINISTER ASSISTING THE PRESIDENT.

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END UNCLASSIFIED. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE:

2. COMMENT: DFA HAS INFORMED US THAT HARRIS WAS A LOGICAL CHOICE TO REPLACE DOWIYOGO AS PRESIDENT. HARRIS WAS THE MOST PROMINENT FOUNDER OF THE NAURU PARTY AND HE PROBABLY WOULD HAVE BEEN NAMED PRESIDENT FOLLOWING THE 1976 ELECTIONS IF HE HAD NOT BEEN DEFEATED. INSTEAD,

DOWIYOGO, A FELLOW NAURU PARTY MEMBER, WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT.

3. HARRIS WAS EVENTUALLY RE-ELECTED TO PARLIAMENT ON NOVEMBER 1977. SINCE THAT TIME, HE HAS BEEN THE KEY MINISTER IN DOWIYOGO'S CABINET, IN CHARGE OF HEALTH AND EDUCATION AND ALSO AS MINISTER ASSISTING THE PRESIDENT.

4. HARRIS, 39 YEARS OLD, RECEIVED A DEGREE IN ENGINEERING IN AUSTRALIA. ACCORDING TO DFANUHE WILL PROBABLY BE BETTER QUALIFIED TO LEAD NAURU THAN WAS DOWIYOGO, WHO HAD BECOME INCREASINGLY FRUSTRATED BY FORMER PRESIDENT HAMER DEROBURT'S BLOCKING ACTION IN PARLIAMENT.
ALSTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, REORGANIZATIONS, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CANBER03241
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780183-0518
Format: TEL
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978046/aaaaaety.tel
Line Count: 76
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 696fa1b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2978070
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT IN NAURU BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED
TAGS: PINT, NR, (DOWIYOGO, BERNARD), (HARRIS, LAGUMOT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/696fa1b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014